

Meeting of:	<b>Cabinet</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>Monday, 07 October 2019</b>
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Environment and Regeneration
Report Title:	Vale Public Services Board Staff Healthy Travel Charter
Purpose of Report:	To seek approval for the Council to sign the Public Services Board Staff Healthy Travel Charter
Report Owner:	The Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport
Responsible Officer:	Rob Thomas, Managing Director
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	Miles Punter, Director of Environment and Housing Services
Policy Framework:	This is a matter for Executive Decision
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Vale Public Services Board (the "PSB") has developed a Staff Healthy Travel Charter (the "Charter") which sets out a number of commitments for public sector organisations working in the Vale of Glamorgan.</li> <li>• The development of the Charter has been led by Dr Tom Porter, Consultant in Public Health Medicine in the Cardiff and Vale Local Public Health Team.</li> <li>• The Charter includes 14 commitments for 2019-22 around public transport, walking and cycling, communications and leadership, agile working and ultra-low emission vehicles. These commitments are consistent with work already underway or in development within the Council, and are clearly linked to the motion that was debated at Council in July 2019 when it was resolved that the Council declares a Climate Emergency in light of the 'Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)', (October 2018) .</li> <li>• The Charter will be launched at a PSB meeting on the 18th October.</li> </ul>	

## **Recommendations**

1. Cabinet agree that the Council should sign the Staff Healthy Travel Charter and work with Public Services Board (PSB) partners to promote healthier and more sustainable travel options for staff.
2. Cabinet thank Dr Tom Porter for the work he has undertaken to progress this work in the Vale of Glamorgan on behalf of the Public Services Board.

## **Reasons for Recommendations**

1. To enable the Vale of Glamorgan Council to participate in the work of the Public Services Board in facilitating and encouraging healthier and more sustainable travel options for staff.
2. To recognise the significant work undertaken to progress this commitment within the Public Services Board's Well-being Plan.

## **1. Background**

**1.1** The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 formally established Public Services Boards (PSBs) in each Local Authority area in Wales. 'Our Vale' is the Vale PSB and in accordance with the Act must contribute to the achievement of the national well-being goals as set out in the legislation. The PSB must do this by:

- Assessing the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in the local area.
- Setting local objectives that are designed to maximise the PSB's contribution within the area to achieving the national well-being goals.
- Taking all reasonable steps to meet these objectives i.e. through a Well-being Plan which must be informed by the Well-being Assessment.

**1.2** The PSB set four Well-being Objectives which provide the framework for its Well-being Plan. There are several short and long-term actions which will be progressed in an integrated way to achieve the four Objectives and to deliver the PSB's 2050 vision.

**1.3** The PSB's four Well-being Objectives are:

- To enable people to get involved, participate in their local communities and shape local services
- To reduce poverty and tackle inequalities linked to deprivation
- To give children the best start in life
- To protect, enhance and value our environment

## **2. Key Issues for Consideration**

- 2.1** The PSB Well-being Plan includes an action to 'Promote walking and cycling for staff, residents and visitors through shared messages and by providing facilities that enable active travel choices. This work will be undertaken in conjunction with the Capital City Region.' This action will help to deliver the objective to protect, enhance and value our environment. The Charter forms part of the work to deliver this action over the life of the Well-being Plan 2018-23. A similar charter has already been developed by the Cardiff Public Services Board and further work will now be undertaken to develop charters for the Third Sector and the private sector.
- 2.2** The Charter is attached as Appendix A and provides a framework for activity that a number of public sector organisations in the Vale have agreed to sign up to. This includes Cardiff and Vale UHB, HM Prison and Probation Service, South Wales Police, Wales Ambulance Service Trust, Natural Resources Wales and South Wales Fire and Rescue Service who are all members of the PSB. Cardiff airport has also agreed to be a signatory to the Charter.
- 2.3** There are fourteen commitments in the Charter and together they will promote the use of public transport, walking and cycling, agile working and ultra-low emission vehicles. In addition, there are actions around communications and leadership. By working with partners to deliver the Charter there are opportunities to share experience and skill and to develop joint work e.g. around training.
- 2.4** It is intended that the Charter will provide the framework for a new Staff Travel Plan for the Council. The commitments in the Charter are also consistent with the Council's activities to promote staff well-being and reduce our carbon emissions. The commitments are also consistent with the resolution of Council in July of this year to declare a Climate Emergency in light of the recent report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).
- 2.5** A number of projects are currently being taken forward which will support the commitments in the Charter.
- 2.6** Following the success of the cycle hire scheme in Cardiff, the Vale of Glamorgan Council Transport Services team have tendered for a cycle hire scheme provider. The successful bidder was NextBike and plans are now underway to pilot the scheme in Penarth. Discussions are also being held with NextBike and Cardiff Council to ensure interoperability with the scheme in the two neighbouring authority areas. Following the pilot in Penarth, (which is being funded by Section 106 sustainable transport developer contributions), the scheme could be developed further afield with funding from Section 106 and bids to the Welsh Government active travel fund. Both regular cycles and e-bikes will form part of the scheme and assist in creating a healthy and active Vale.
- 2.7** From November 2019 the Council will be offering all staff the opportunity to join the cycle to work scheme. The scheme will be run via the Human Resources and Organisational Development department with Halfords acting as the agent. Staff

will be able to take out a loan, which will be paid back via payroll, and purchase a bike or e-bike from Halfords at a much reduced price.

- 2.8** In addition to the existing reductions that public transport providers (such as Transport for Wales and Cardiff Bus) offer Council staff, the Transport Services team have now also been able to negotiate discounts with the other bus operators (such as New Adventure Travel and Easyway) who provide services in the Vale of Glamorgan. As part of the work to progress the Charter, the Transport Services team intend on working with partners and transport providers so that the same discounts can be offered to all PSB organisations.
- 2.9** The Council already has a hybrid car in its fleet and continues to explore alternatively fuelled vehicles which can replace existing fleet as they are changed. Price parity on diesel and electric vehicles, as an example, is getting close and advances are being made on being able to provide enough energy to power these vehicles at Council sites. This work will continue and form part of a shared way of working with PSB partners, some of which have already made firm steps into alternate fuelled vehicles.
- 2.10** It is intended that the Charter will be launched at the Public Services Board meeting on the 18th October.
- 2.11** Following the launch, the PSB Staff Healthy Travel Charter Group will work together to agree appropriate targets and work with communications professionals within their organisations to engage staff and promote the Charter. Together partners will reduce the proportion of journeys commuting to and from work by car and will increase the take-up of more healthy and sustainable travel options.

### **3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?**

- 3.1** The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is about sustainable development. The Act sets out a 'sustainable development principle' which specifies that the public bodies listed in the Act must act in a manner which seeks to ensure the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. In meeting their sustainability duty, each body must set objectives that highlight the work the body will undertake to contribute to meeting the seven Well-being Goals for Wales.
- 3.2** Through the PSB partners are working together to contribute to the national well-being goals, adopt the five ways of working and improve social, economic, cultural and environmental well-being.
- 3.3** Activities under the Charter will specifically contribute to a more resilient Wales and a healthier Wales as well as a more globally responsible Wales.

- 3.4 The Charter has been developed with the involvement of a range of partners and enables public sector organisations to work collaboratively to take preventative action and also to look to the long term in terms of the impact of how we work.
- 3.5 The Staff Healthy Travel Charter is consistent with the Council's current well-being objectives and outcomes and is also consistent with objectives being developed for the new Corporate Plan.

## **4. Resources and Legal Considerations**

### **Financial**

- 4.1 The delivery of the Charter will need to be undertaken from within existing resources.

### **Employment**

- 4.2 The Charter will encourage and support staff to consider different options for travelling to and from work and for when they need to travel as part of their job.

### **Legal (Including Equalities)**

- 4.3 There are no specific legal considerations arising as a direct result of this report. As work is undertaken to deliver the Charter then further reports will be prepared and advice sought as necessary.
- 4.4 Actions set out in the Well-being Plan will help to tackle the inequalities linked to deprivation and to increase community participation and engagement. The work of the PSB will contribute to the delivery of a more equal Wales, one of the seven national well-being goals for Wales.
- 4.5 An Equality Impact Assessment of the Well-being Plan has been undertaken and was reported to the committee when the Plan was published.

## **5. Background Papers**

Vale Public Services Board Well-being Plan <https://www.valepsb.wales/en/Our-Plan.aspx>



# Staff healthy travel charter

Vale of Glamorgan public sector commitments 2019-22

## Working together across the Vale of Glamorgan, we commit to...

<b>Public transport</b>
Offer discounts on public transport to staff in our organisations, including Transport for Wales Rail Services, and explore discounts with other operators
<b>Walking, cycling and public transport</b>
Contribute to an interactive map showing all walking and cycling infrastructure and public transport links for our sites in the Vale of Glamorgan
<b>Cycling</b>
Offer the cycle to work scheme to all staff
Provide secure cycle storage and showers at all our main sites in the Vale of Glamorgan
Improve access to bicycles at work, e.g. pool bikes, e-bikes, and public cycle hire schemes
Facilitate and promote free cycle training and maintenance sessions
Review together our travel expenses policies, to encourage uptake of cycling
<b>Communications and leadership</b>
Establish a network of sustainable travel champions across our organisations
Agree and use consistent communications messages with the public, visitors and staff on healthy travel
Promote and consider healthy travel options and benefits when advertising roles in our organisations
Senior staff and managers routinely promoting and modelling active and sustainable travel behaviour and incorporating promotion into relevant work programmes they are responsible for
<b>Agile working</b>
Increase availability and uptake of tele- and video-conferencing for meetings where appropriate
<b>Ultra low emission vehicles</b>
Review the current and future need for electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure on our sites
Review our fleet and procurement arrangements (where applicable) for introduction of ultra low emission vehicles

## Between us, we will...

Reduce the proportion of journeys commuting to and from work made by car from <i>a%</i> to <i>b%</i>
Increase the proportion of vehicles used during the day which are plug-in hybrid or pure electric from <i>a%</i> to <i>b%</i>

## Who we are...

